



THE STRANGE TALE OF
**PANORAMA
ISLAND**

Suehiro Maruo

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Suehiro Maruo

パノラマ島純譚

Set in 1920s Japan, *The Strange Tale of Panorama Island* follows the twisted path of failed novelist Hitomi, who bears an uncanny resemblance to the son of a rich industrialist. Learning of the rich man's sudden passing, Hitomi undertakes a desperate plan to fake his own death and impersonate the industrialist. He successfully takes over all aspects of the dead man's life, including his company, his fortune, and eventually his wife.

Hitomi redirects the family's wealth to his own perverse aims, and builds for himself an island playground of hedonistic excess—replete with waterfalls, grand palaces, and gardens, and decadent feasts, orgies, and dark secrets.

Stunning artwork by master manga artist Suehiro Maruo deftly illustrates this Japanese pulp classic in lush detail. Maruo adapted this manga from a novella by Edogawa Rampo, the Godfather of Japanese detective fiction.



THE STRANGE TALE OF
**PANORAMA
ISLAND**



**EDOGAWA RAMPO
SUEHIRO MARUO**

**SCANNED BY KICKTHEKITTY
CLEANED BY ANETHUM GRAVEOLENS**

LAST GASP



This world of
ours is a dream.
In our fantasies
at night lie the
only reality.

- Edo Gawa Rampo

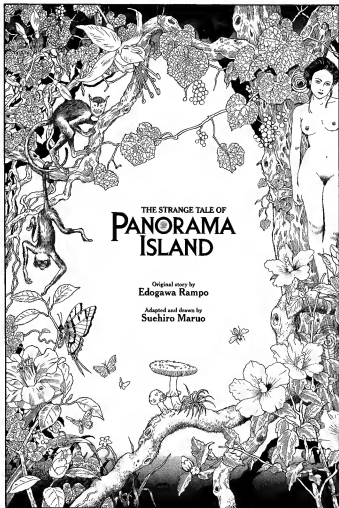


And finally, his earthly paradise
had been completed.

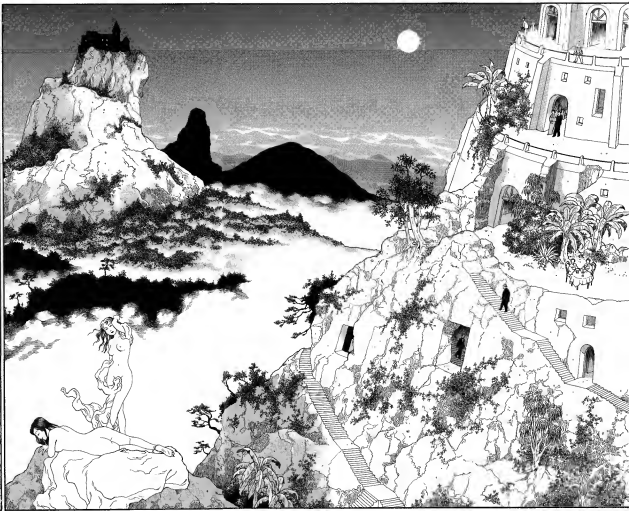
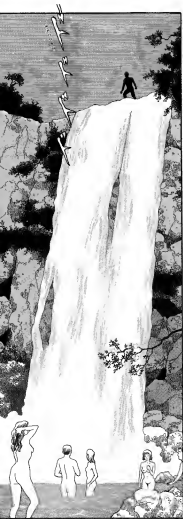
Like a mad and endless carnival,
the entire island was swept over.

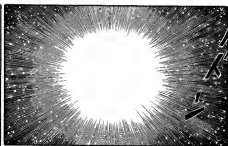
・ The Strange Tale of Panaroma Island















HEADLINE: "THE EMPEROR IS DEAD.
The Taisho Emperor passed away this morning
at 1:25 a.m. at the Hayama Imperial Villa."



NOTE: The Taisho Era extended from July 30, 1912 to December 26, 1926.



BOOK: "Gathering in Moonlight" by Horiguchi Daigaku



BOOK: "Gathering in Moonlight" by Horiguchi Daigaku

"The Tale
of RA"



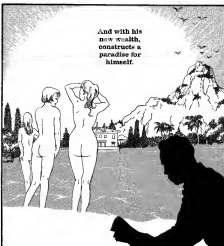
by
Hitomi
Hirotsuke



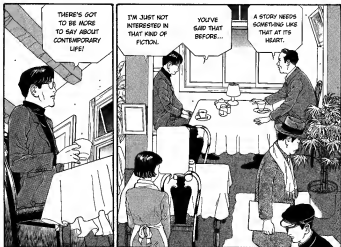
The
protagonist
suddenly
comes into
a massive
fortune,



And with his
new wealth,
constructs a
paradise for
himself.



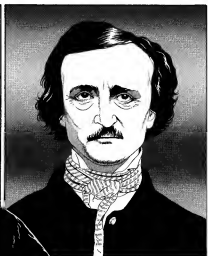
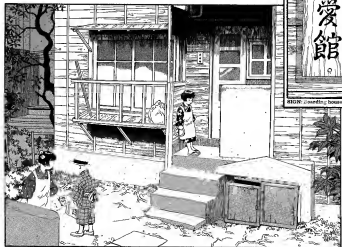




SIGN: Subway department store

友愛館

友愛館 寄宿舎

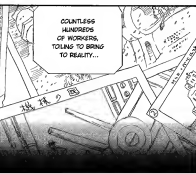
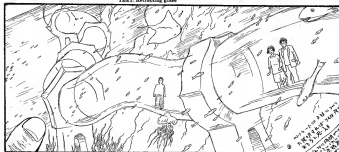




TEXT: Undersea tunnel

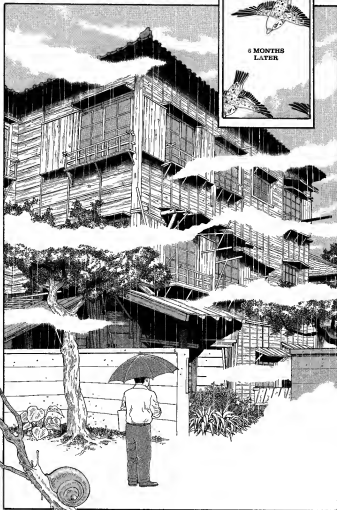


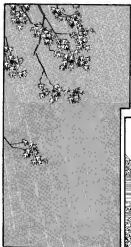
TEXT: Reinforcing glass





6 MONTHS
LATER







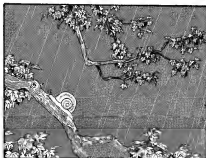


EVERYONE SAID
YOU TWO WERE
DOPPELGÄNGERS!

IT'S NO SURPRISE
YOU ENDED UP LIKE
TWO PEAS IN A POD.

HE WAS THE NOBLE SON OF AN OUTRAGEOUSLY
WEALTHY FAMILY FROM KISHU, WHILE I WAS
JUST A DESTITUTE BOARDING STUDENT...

NOTE: Kishu is a semi-rural region near the ocean in Wakayama prefecture, south of Osaka.











HE'S
DEAD
NOW...





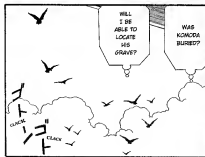
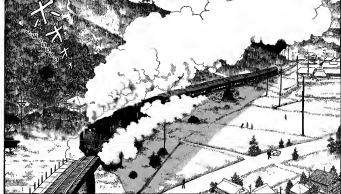


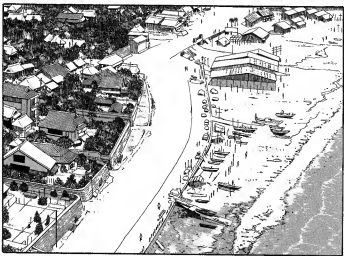
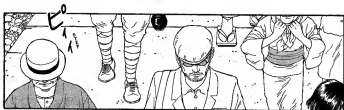




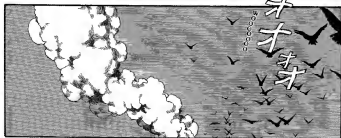
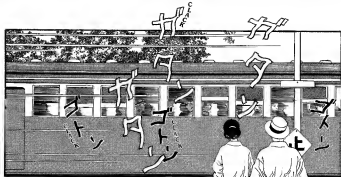
CHAPTER TWO



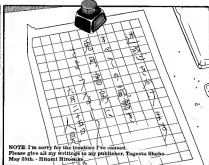


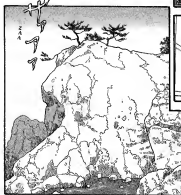


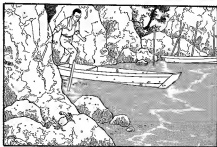






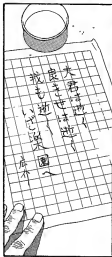
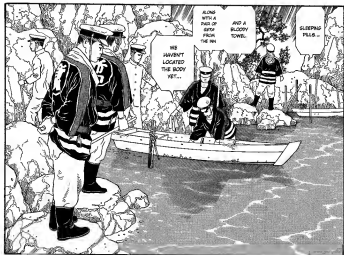




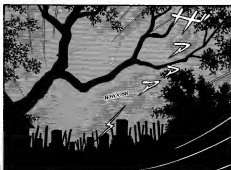








NOTE: The Emperor is gone. The good world is gone. And so I will disappear too. To paradise, I depart. —Hirotsugu



THIS IS
HARDLY THE
GRAVE OF A
RICH MAN.
IT'S NOTHING
SPECIAL.

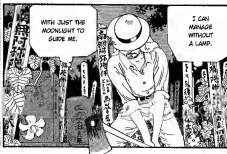
昭和元年 六月二十日没

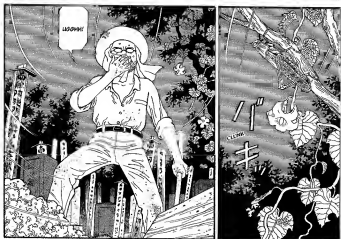
俗名

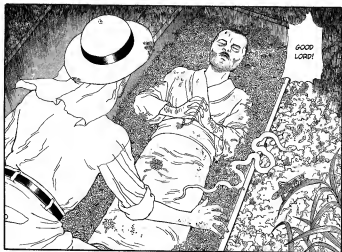
孤田源三郎
享年三十八才



INSCRIPTION: Gousakuro Komoda, 38 Years Old.











THE FLESH
CAME RIGHT
OFF WITH
IT. GOD...



THE
RING IS
STUCK!



GUESS I
WON'T BE RID
OF THAT AWFUL
SMELL ANY
TIME SOON.

WELL,

HA

HA

HA

HA

HA

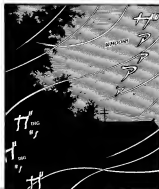
HA

HA



THE CORPSE
MIGHT COME
APART IF I
SQUEEZES HIM
TOO HARD...

HE'S
SO DAMN
HEAVY.















IT'S A DEAD BODY!

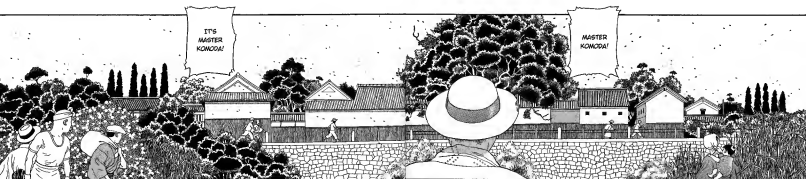






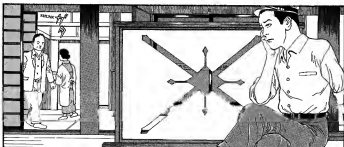
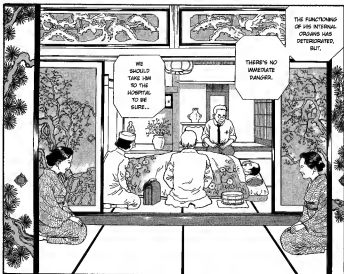
CHAPTER THREE















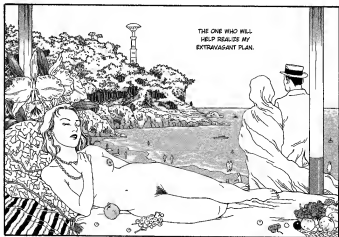






TSUNODA

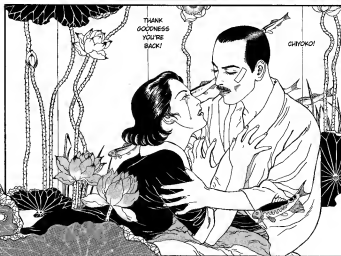
THE OLD MAN
IS TSUNODA.
THE ONE WHO
PROTECTS THE
KOMODA FAMILY.



THE ONE WHO WILL
HELP REALIZE MY
EXTRAVAGANT PLAN.







THANK
GOODNESS
YOU'RE
BACK!

CHIYOKO!



THERE ARE THINGS

THAT ONLY A WIFE



SURELY,



HMP?



WOULD
KNOW?



WHO
ARE
YOU
I?



ARE
YOU
?



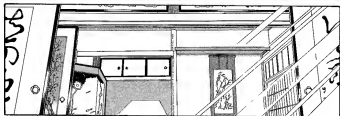
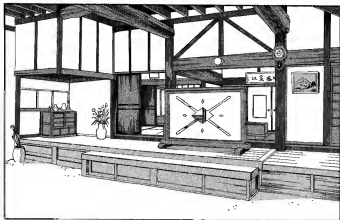
MOLE
HERE?

A
STRANGE



WHO







I CAN'T
TAKE OUT
ANY OF THE
SMALL TYPE!



WHAT A PAIN,
WITHOUT MY
GLASSES...



HEADLINE: Genzaburo Komoda
Miraculously Beats Death. Local
Residents Share in Joy and Disbelief



AND
ANOTHER
FROM THE
OTOYO
HOTEL!

A GIFT FROM
ISHIBASHI
ENTERPRISES!

AND
FROM THE
MOTOMYA
ESTATE
AGENCY





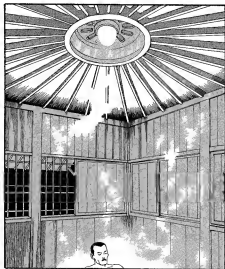


SHE HAD TWO
MISCARRIAGES.



HIS FATHER
PASSED AWAY
WHEN HE
WAS 53.

THE CHILDREN
CHIYOKO BORE
GENTARU DIED
BEFORE BIRTH.



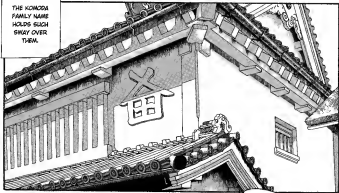
CHIYOKO...
SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN.

BUT SUCH A
TRAGIC WOMAN
AS WELL.



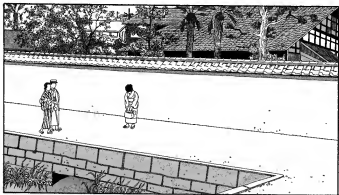


THE KOMODA
FAMILY NAME
HOLDS SUCH
SWAY OVER
THEM.



NEXT WEEK,
LET'S HOLD A
CELEBRATION
TO YOUR
RECOVERY!

WE'LL
INVITE
EVERYONE
TO COME
AND JOIN
US.









ALL OF THE COMPANIES
CONTROLLED BY THE
KOMODA
ESTATE, AND THEIR
LEADERS.



IN THE WAY OF
JAPANESE MYSTERY
WITH ALL OF THEM.



I MADE MY
OWN SMALL
TALK.

THEIR
BRASSLESS
CHATTER.



AND ABOVE ALL,
THEY TOOK ME
FOR THE REAL
SENZABURO
KOMODA.



BUT STILL....



AND SECRETLY
LAUGH AT ME
BEHIND MY BACK!

I FEAR THEY ALL
KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND ARE SIMPLY
CONSPIRING TO
REVEAL ME.

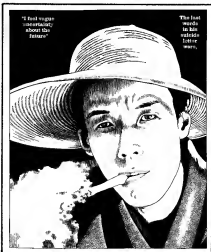


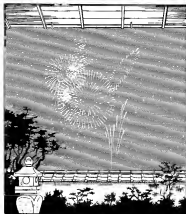
I MERELY
COUGH AND
THE BLOOD
DRAINS FROM
THEIR FACES!

BUT
I'M NO
FOOL.



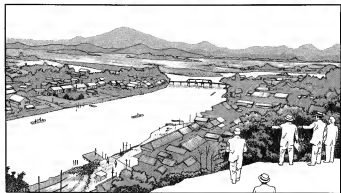


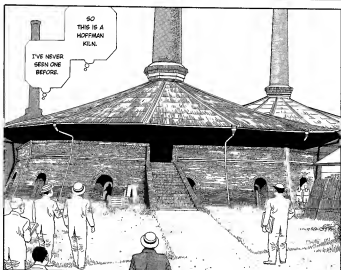
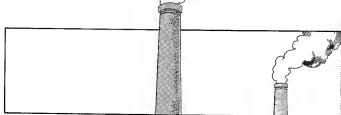




CHAPTER FOUR

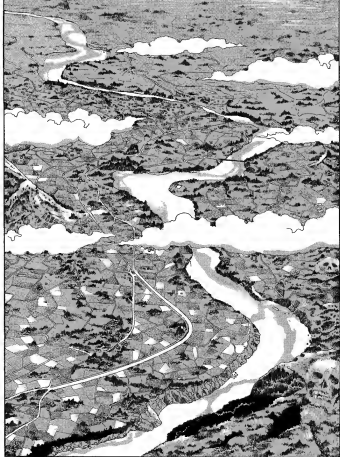




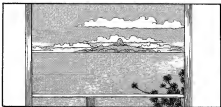


NOTE: The Hoffman kiln is arranged in a ring around a central fire, and used in the industrial production of bricks and building supplies.

THE KOMODA FAMILY CONTROLLED
EXTENSIVE LAND, INCLUDING
AGRICULTURAL FIELDS, FISHING
GROUNDS, AND WOODLANDS, AS
WELL AS FACTORIES AND HOTELS.







HOW
LONG DO
I HAVE
TO LIVE?

I
WONDER
...

MY
BROTHER
WHEN HE
WAS 17...

MY
FATHER
DIED AT
39.

WHAT
??

AND I DIED ONCE ALREADY AT 39.

BUT
GIR..!

I'LL
EVEN LIVE
TO SEE
FIFTY

I HAVE
NO DEAD



I WANT TO HAVE
LEFT SOME MARK
OF MY EXISTENCE.



I WANT
TO SEE MY
DREAM
REALIZED.

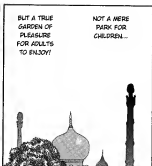
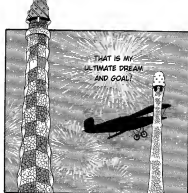
IF I WERE TO DIE
PREMATURELY,



WHAT IS
THIS "DREAM"
OF YOURS?



I'M
GOING TO
BUILD THAT
AMUSEMENT
PARK!





I WANT
TO LEAVE A
TRACE OF MY
EXISTENCE!



THAT'S THE
RATIONALE
IT TOOK TO
CONVINCE
TEJUNODA
TO AGREE....

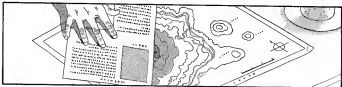
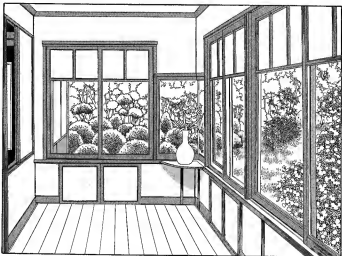


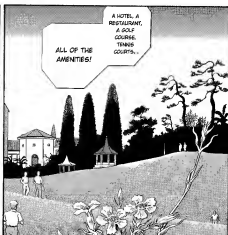
"I WANT
TO LEAVE A
TRACE OF MY
EXISTENCE!"









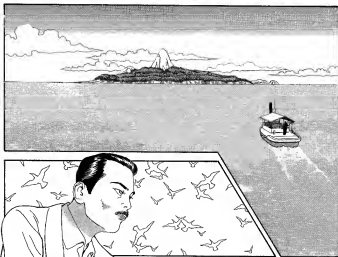
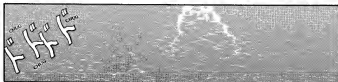


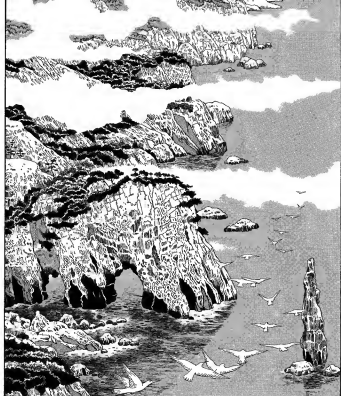


WE'LL PROVIDE AN
ESCAPE FROM THE
ECONOMIC MALAISE!









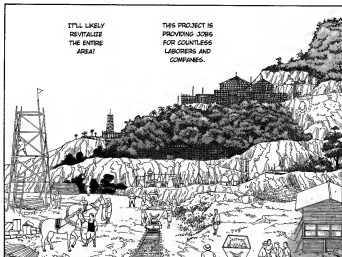


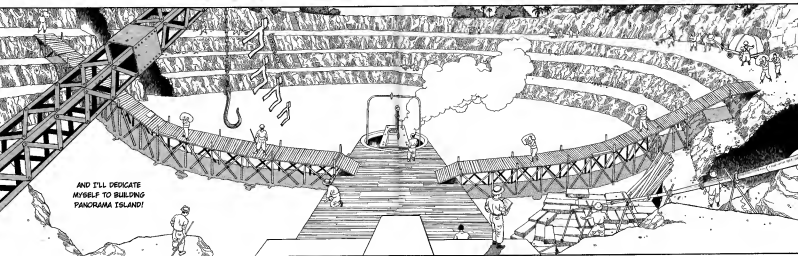
ON THIS ISOLATED ISLAND,
AWAY FROM PRYING EYES,
MY PLEASURE KINGDOM
WILL BE BORN!



IT'LL LIKELY
REVITALIZE
THE ENTIRE
AREA!

THIS PROJECT IS
PROVIDING JOBS
FOR COUNTLESS
LABORERS AND
COMPANIES.





AND I'LL DEDICATE
MYSELF TO BUILDING
PANORAMA ISLAND!



IT
COULD
BE
LONGER
...

AT
LEAST!

SIX
MONTHS
FOR THE
CONSTRUC-
TION?



NOTHING
LIKE IT
HAS EVER
BEEN BUILT
BEFORE!

THIS
"UNDERSEA
TUNNEL"
YOU WANT...







THAT'S
ENOUGH!
YOU'VE
GONE
TOO
FAR!

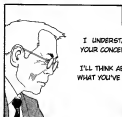


IF THE KOMODA
FACTORIES GO
BELLY UP, WE'LL
GO UNDER AS
WELL!

I AM
RUNNING MY
OWN HUGE
FACTORY!



I WON'T,
NOT FOR
SOME DAMN
AMUSEMENT
PARK!



I UNDERSTAND
YOUR CONCERNS.

I'LL THINK ABOUT
WHAT YOU'VE SAID.



NO...



GO BANKRUPT!?



WHERE IS
THE MRS. MAM
HEADED?

HEH ?







HE DOESN'T PLAY
GO OR GOLF
ANYMORE.

KOMODA
HAS CHANGED
RECENTLY...



HSH?

I WONDER
IF THIS IS
REALLY AN
AMUSEMENT
PARK.

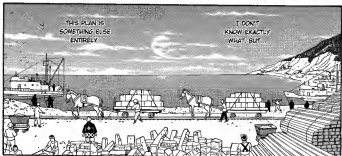


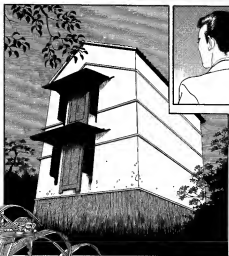
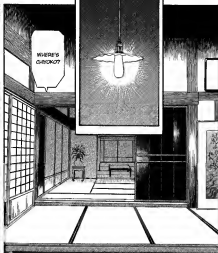
I DON'T THINK
WE'RE ACTUALLY
BUILDING AN
AMUSEMENT
PARK.



THIS PLAN IS
SOMETHING ELSE
ENTIRELY.

I DON'T
KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT, BUT...

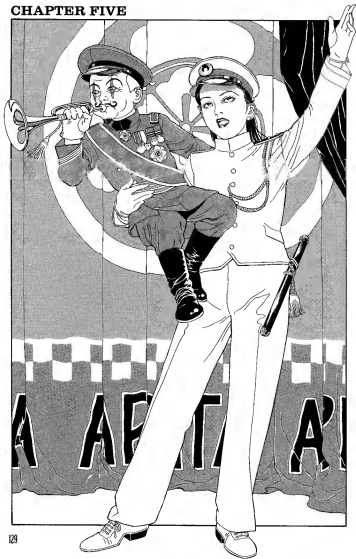




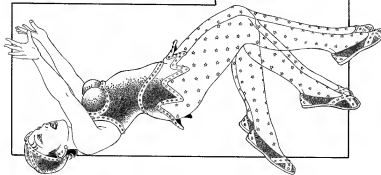




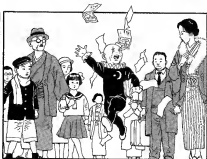
CHAPTER FIVE











楽園の住人募集!!

客姿に自信ある方
歌、踊りに覚えの
ある方
○ 曲芸師

年齢、学歴、
性別、国籍、
不同
高給優遇!!

主筆
菰田源三郎

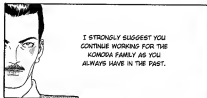
HEADLINE: Wanted: Residents of Paradise!!
Headstrong and attractive performers! Excellent singers and dancers! Acrobats! All applicants are welcome regardless of age, sex, nationality, and education. Great wages! Gensaburo Komeda, President



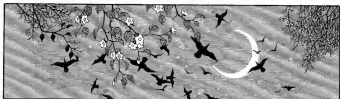














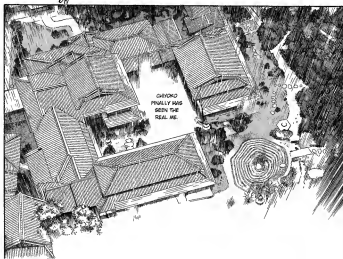
EVEN
IF YOU
KNEW
WHAT I
REALLY
WAS...

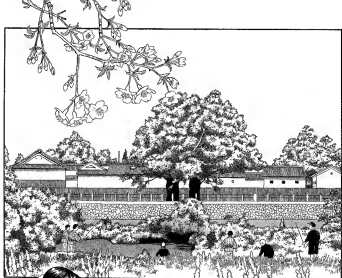
IT'S
ALREADY
TOO
LATE TO
STOP MY
GRAND
PLANS.





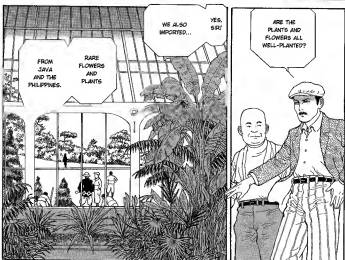
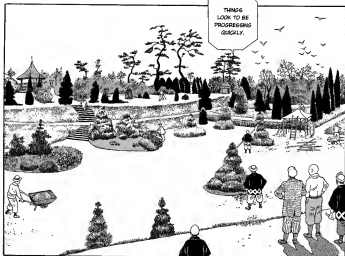














HE'S
CHANGED
ALMOST
COMPLETELY.

SHE'S
TRYING TO
CATCH THE
ATTENTION OF
MR. KURODA

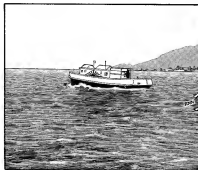
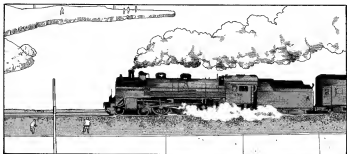


THE MADM
CHOPPED OFF
HER HAIR.

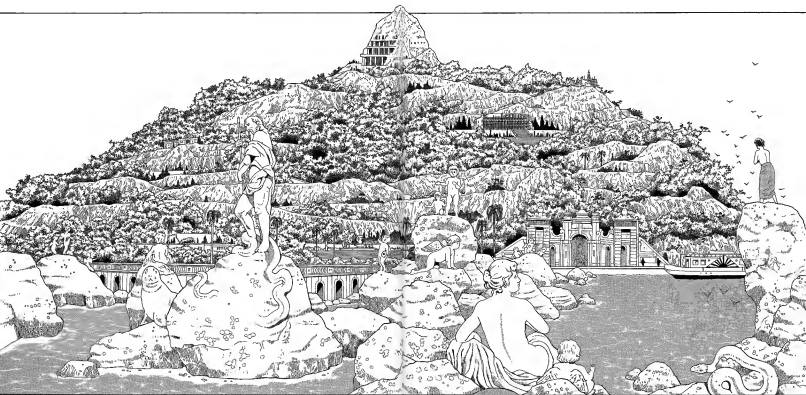


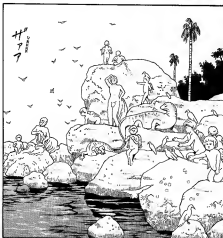
SHE
LOOKS
LIKE A
YOUNG
MAIDEN.

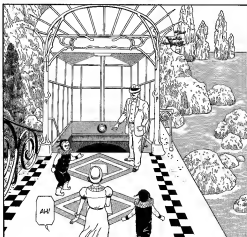
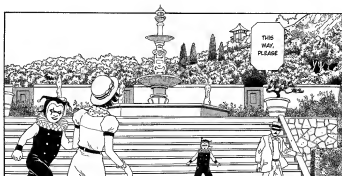


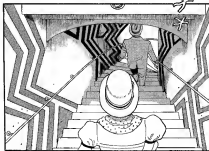


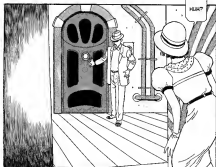






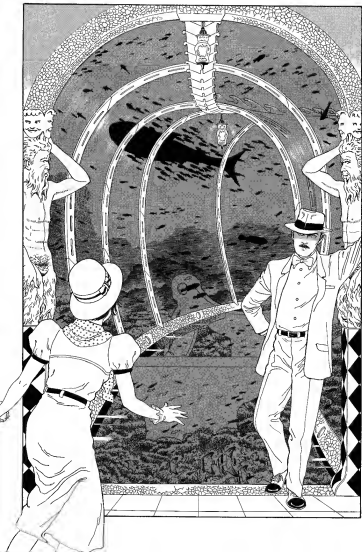


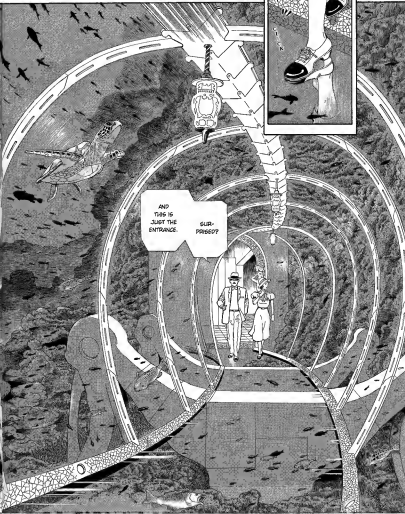
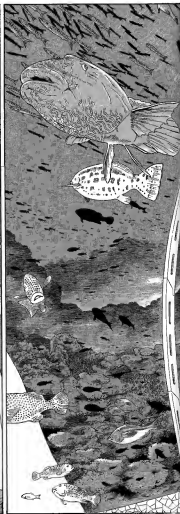






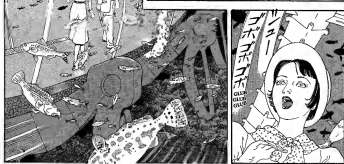
CHAPTER SIX



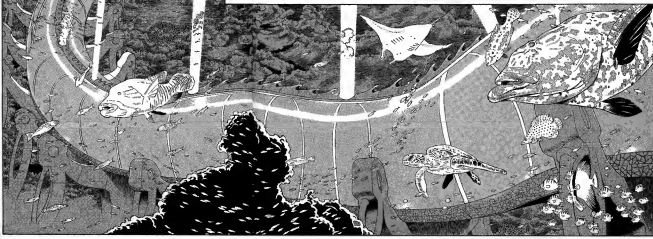
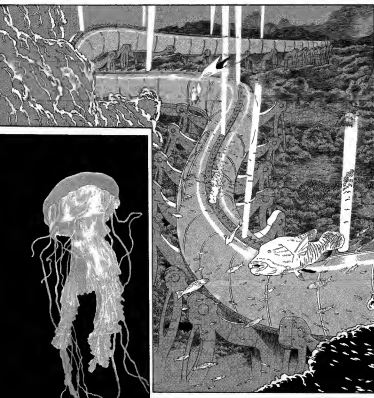




NOTE: In 1907, National Geographic published the world's first underwater color photographs.







WALKING
ALONE WITH
ME HERE
BENEATH
THE DEEP



ARE YOU
AFRAID?







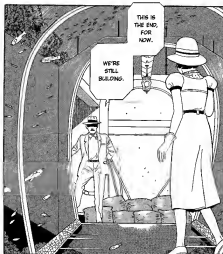


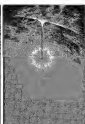




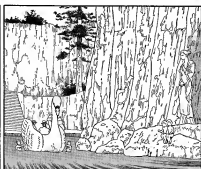
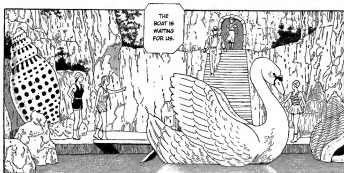


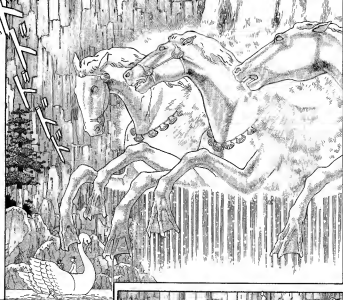












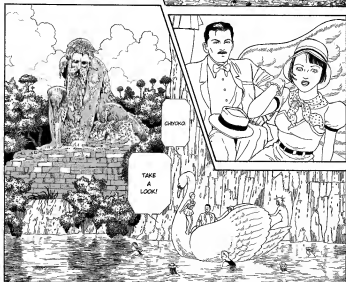
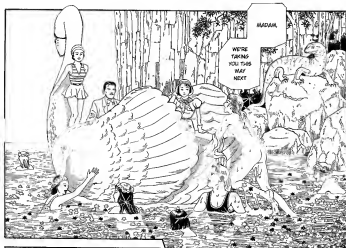


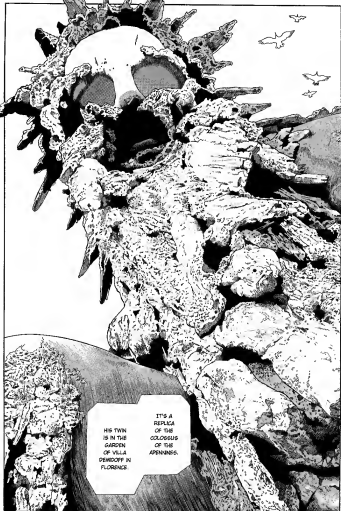




FLOWERS
ARE
FLOATING
TOWARDS
US.

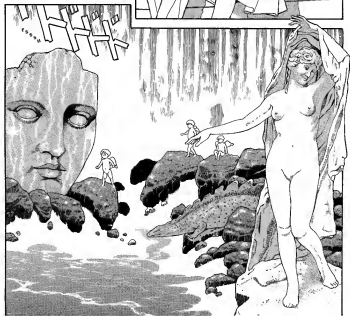
AMAZING!

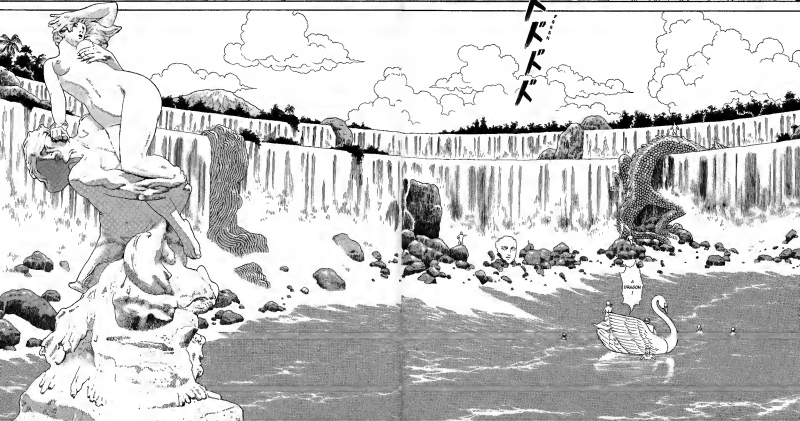




HIS TWIN
IS IN THE
GARDEN
OF VILLA
DENICOFF IN
FLORENCE

IT'S A
REPLICA
OF THE
COLOSSUS
OF THE
APENNINES

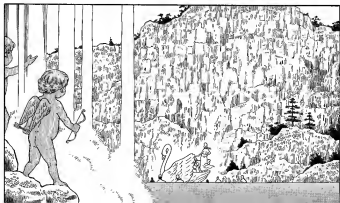


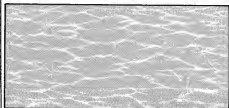




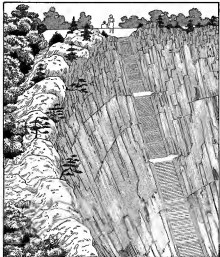
SIMPLY
A POOR
FISHING
ISLAND.

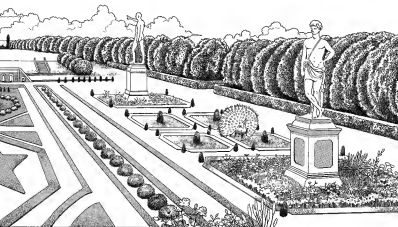
UNTIL
RECENTLY,
THIS PLACE
WAS

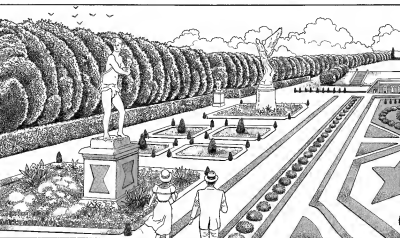


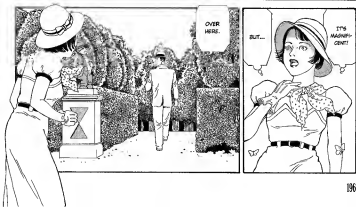
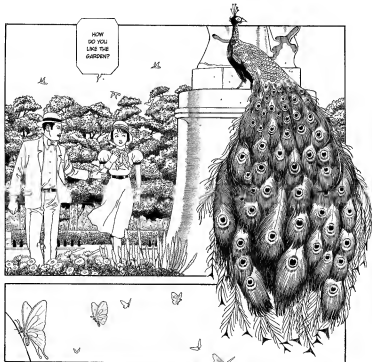




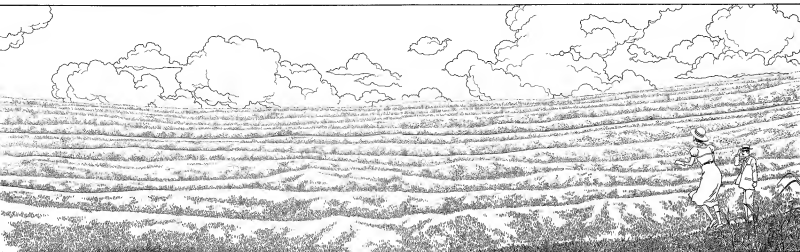






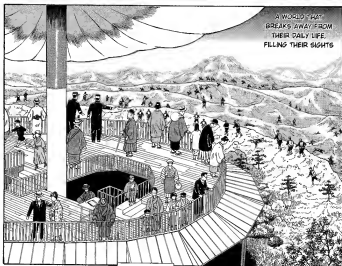






VISITORS FIRST MUST ENTER
THROUGH A NARROW PATH
IN PITCH DARKNESS.

AT THE END,
THE VIEWER EMERGES IN
A BRIGHT NEW WORLD.



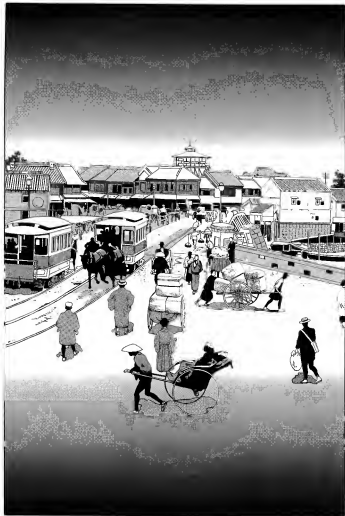
A WORLD THAT
BREAKS AWAY FROM
THEIR DAILY LIFE,
FILLING THEIR SIGHTS



WHAT A
STARTLING
DECEPTION!



CHAPTER SEVEN



BUT WITHIN THE PANORAMA,
THE ENDLESS MANDCHURIAN
PLAINS EXTEND BEYOND
THE HORIZON

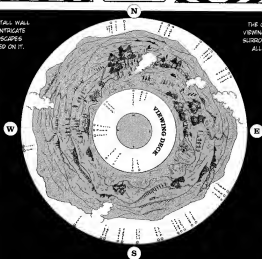
OUTSIDE OF THE PANORAMA
OUR FAMILIAR CITY AND
DAILY LIVES STILL EXIST.



HOW IS THE
ILLUSION
ACHIEVED?

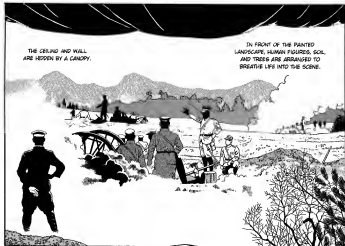
... BY A TALL WALL
WITH INTRICATE
LANDSCAPES
PAINTED ON IT.

THE CENTRAL
VIEWING DECK IS
SURROUNDED ON
ALL SIDES



THE CEILING AND WALL
ARE HIDDEN BY A CANOPY.

IN FRONT OF THE PAINTED
LANDSCAPE, HUMAN FIGURES, SOIL,
AND TREES ARE ARRANGED TO
BREATHE LIFE INTO THE SCENE.



IS CREATED WITHIN A
SMALL STRUCTURE.

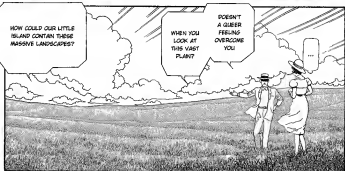
AND SO, A VAST
OTHER WORLD

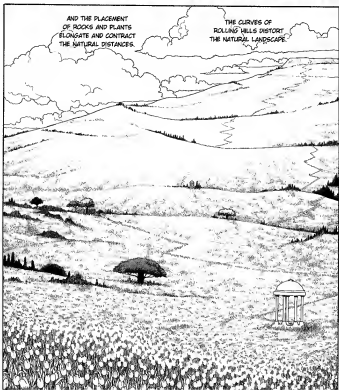
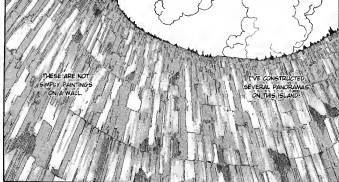


HOW COULD OUR LITTLE
ISLAND CONTAIN THESE
MASSIVE LANDSCAPES?

WHEN YOU
LOOK AT
THIS VAST
PLANT?

DOESN'T
A QUEER
FEELING
OVERCOME
YOU





BUT THERE
WERE ONLY 100
OR 50 STEPS.

THE STONE STAIRWAY
WE CLIMBED LOOKED
AS THOUGH IT WOULD
REACH THE SKY.

ELONGATE
AND CONTRACT
THE NATURAL
DISTANCES!?

THE PLAIN'S
SIZE IS AN
ILLUSION?

SO
THAT
MEANS...

THAT'S
RIGHT.

SO THAT
THINGS IN
THE DISTANCE
ARE HIDDEN
TO THE EYE.

OUR
SURROUNDINGS
ARE RAISED
AT AN ALMOST
INDISCERNIBLE
ANGLE.



ANOTHER
TUNNEL
OF
GRASS.



TO END
UP AT THE
CENTER.

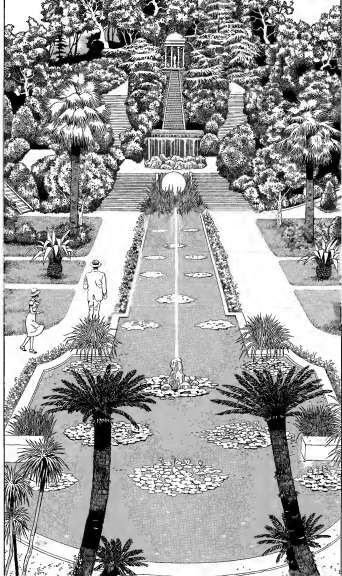
WE HAD TO
FOLLOW THE
PATH AROUND
THE ISLAND.



AH...

LET'S HEAD
TO THE MAIN
FLOWER
GARDEN
FROM HERE.



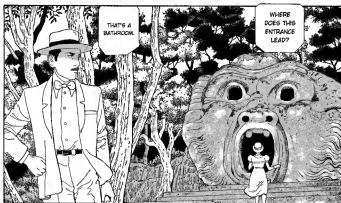


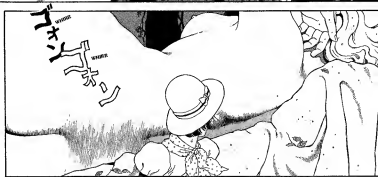


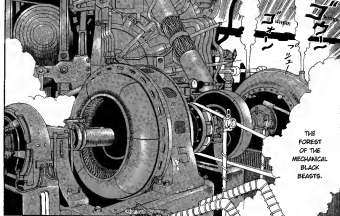
NOTE: Topiary is an ornamental horticultural practice, in which plants and shrubs are clipped into shapes such as animals.



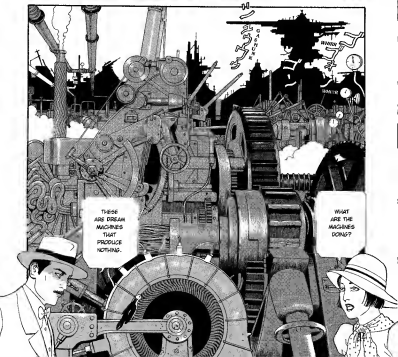






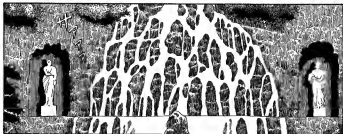


THE
FOREST
OF THE
MECHANICAL
BLACK
BEASTS.



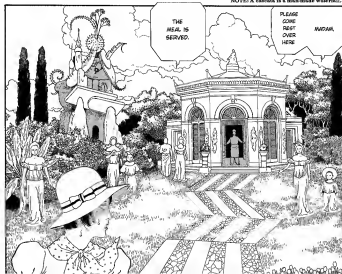
THESE
ARE DREAM
MACHINES
THAT
PRODUCE
NOTHING.

WHAT
ARE THE
MACHINES
DOING?

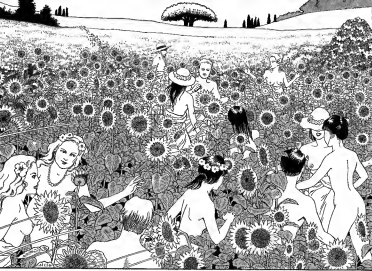




NOTE: A cascata is a man-made waterfall.

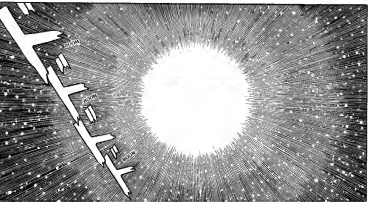






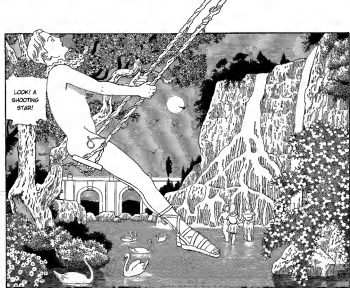














YOU ARE
THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
CORPSE IN
THE WORLD.

OHYONG.

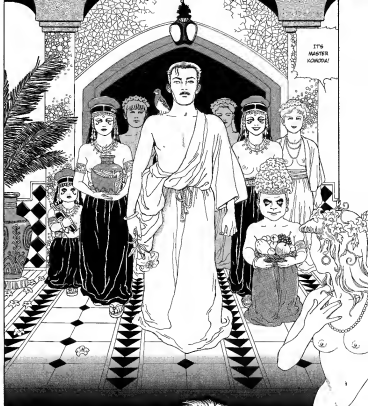


I'D
RATHER
STAY AND
BAT!

ARE YOU
GOING TO
SEE THE
FIRE-
WORMS?











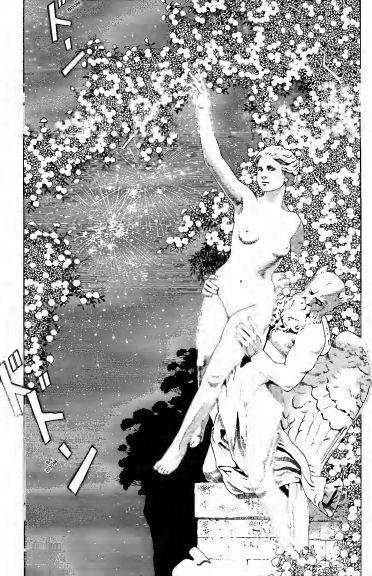
I
DON'T
CARE!

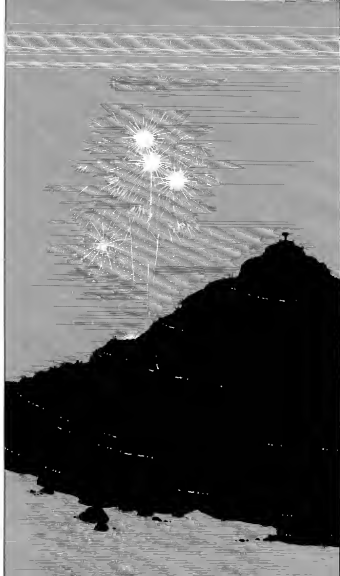


OR AN
IMPOSTER
...

WHETHER
THAT
GENZABURO
IS REAL

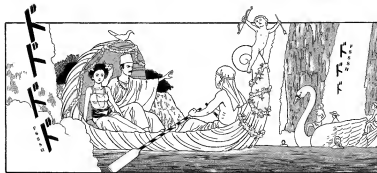




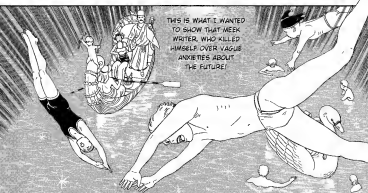


FINAL CHAPTER

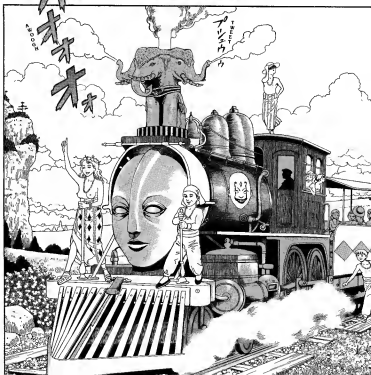


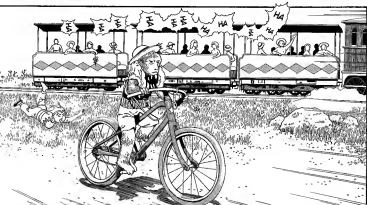
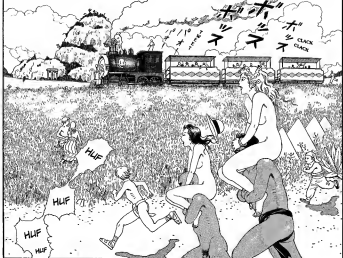








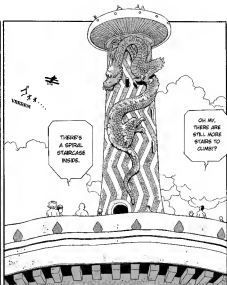








WHAT'S
AT THE
VERY
TOP?



THERE'S
A SPIRAL
STAIRCASE
INSIDE.

OH MY,
THERE ARE
STILL MORE
STAIRS TO
CLIMB?



I FEEL
LIKE I'M
HALLUCIN-
ATING!

WHAT
IT?

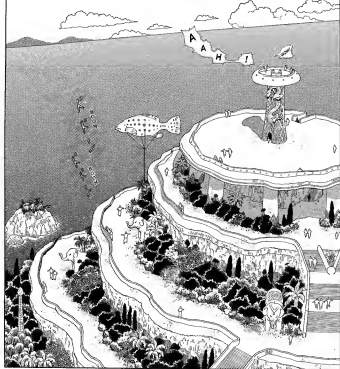
IT'S
INCREDI-
BLE!



THE
ISLAND
LOOKS
LIKE A
HUGE
FLOWER!

FROM
ABOVE...

オオオオオ



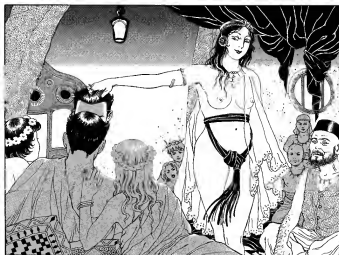
LIKE A
HEMONGOUS
FLOWER
FLOTTING IN
THE SEAF?

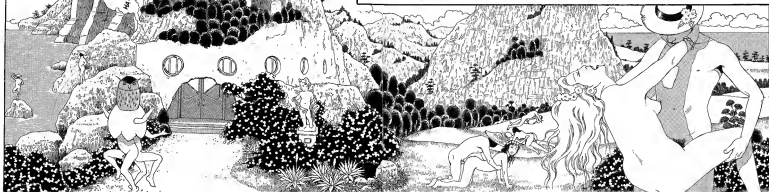
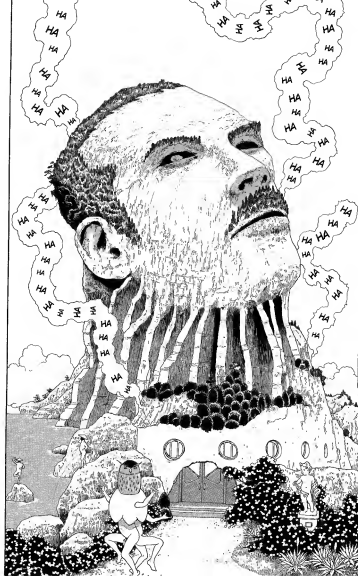
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
LOOKS LIKE
A FLOWER?

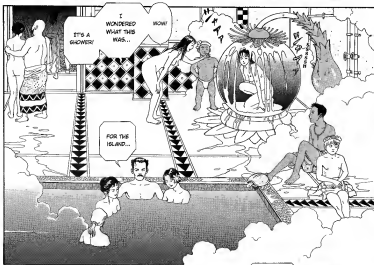












NOTE: Sergei Daghliev (1912 - 1929). He established Ballets Russes in Paris in 1903. Vaslav Nijinsky was the lead dancer of the company. Nijinsky began to develop a mental disorder around 1914, but his technique was considered divine. ("Ninja" means carrots)

NOTE: "Turkey" was the nickname of Takiko Mizukino, a star of the renowned Shochikuji Opera Company in the 1930s. Kato-Kato was the nickname of another star, Enoki Kikako.



I WANNA
SEE
"TURKEY"
PERFORM!

LET'S
CALL THE
SHOCHIKUJI
OPERA
COMPANY
THEN.



I
PREFER
"END-
KENT"



NUJINSKY
HAD LOST
HIS MIND.



A
LETTER
FROM
TOKYO!

SIR!



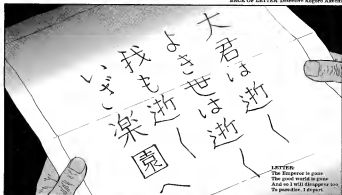
THIS IS
FROM
MR.
AKECHI

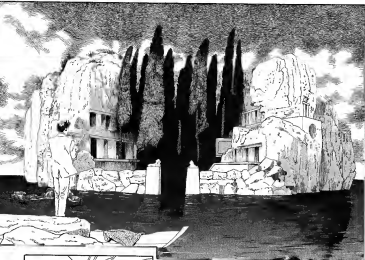
坂田 照川 殿様

LETTER
Mr. Gumbare Kameda



BACK OF LETTER Detective Kogoro Akicchi





PAPER: Ludwig II of Kishu, Building a Strange Island Paradise

NOTE: Ludwig II (1845-1886), King of Bavaria. He used his kingdom's immense fortune and built a castle to satisfy his appetite for indigestion and luxury.







HE KILLED
HIMSELF.

HE HAD A
UNFORTUNATE
LIFE UNTIL
HIS DEATH.

MR. HITOMI
WAS AN
UNKNOWN
WRITER.



HIS NOVEL
"THE TALE OF RA"
WAS PUBLISHED
POSTHUMOUSLY.

TITLE: "King of Death"



I THOUGHT YOU BUILT THIS
ISLAND TO MIMIC THE ONE
IN "THE TALE OF RA."

SO I VISITED
THE PUBLISHER,
USING OVER
IN JMSOGHO.



ALL
HE TOLD
ME WAS,
"I DIDN'T
KNOW HIM
VERY
WELL."



I ASKED THE
HEAD EDITOR
ABOUT HITOMI
BUT...



AND SOON,
KOMODA BEGAN
STRANGE WORK
DOWN IN KISHU.

BUT LATER...
THE EDITOR HEARD
STORIES THAT
GENTABURO
KOMODA HAD COME
BACK TO LIFE!



THE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
PUBLISHED
"THE TALE OF RAY"
TO COMMEMORATE
HITOMI'S LIFE.



I THINK
THAT HITOMI
FAKED HIS
SUICIDE.

AND
SCHEMED TO
TAKE OVER
KOMODA'S
LIFE.



MOREOVER,
THE EDITOR
KNEW AN
IMPORTANT
DETAIL.



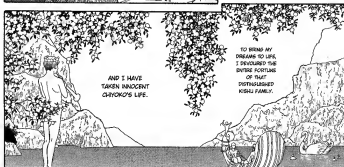
HE KNEW THAT
HITOMI HIROSUKE
AND GENTABURO
KOMODA HAD ONCE
BEEN GRIPPING
IMAGES OF EACH
OTHER!



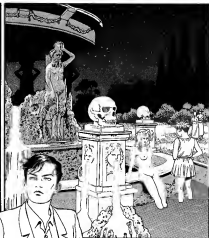
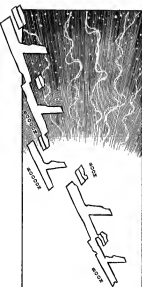
YOU ARE
HITOMI
HIROSUKE.

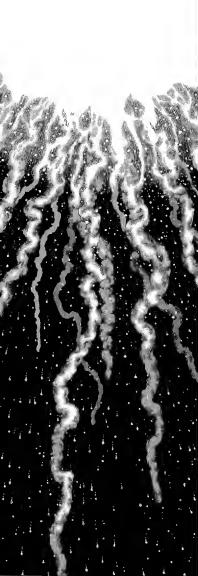


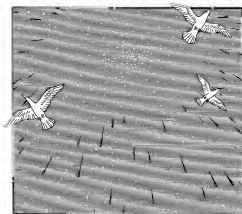
NOTE: Arnold Böcklin (1827-1901) A symbolist painter in the late 19th century.



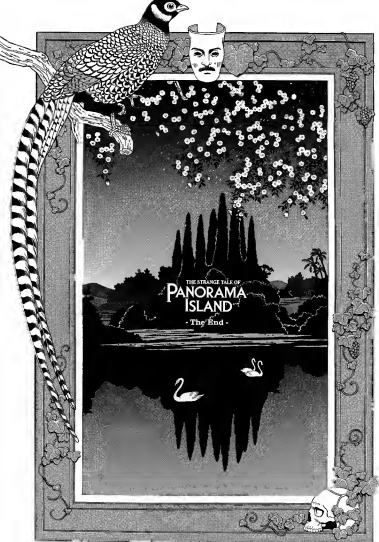












EDOGAWA RAMPO

Born Hirai Tark on October 21, 1894 (Meiji Era 27), in Misaki, Mie Prefecture.
His pen name is an homage to Edgar Allan Poe.

After graduating from Misaki University, Edoгава Rampo drifted from one odd job to another. In 1923 (Taisho 12), he published his first short story "Wagon Doka" (The Two-Six Copper Coin) in the magazine *Shin-Seinen*, and made his debut as a detective fiction writer.

Rampo is considered the grandfather of modern Japanese mystery fiction. He became immensely popular for his short stories, such as "Wagon Inn" (The Human Chair), and "Shawn-Wishes" (The Psychological Test) and "D-club no Sanjaku Jūzō" (Case of the Murder on D-Slope), the latter of which became his brilliant detective Kogoro Akashi. Rampo earned acclaim with his longer novellas, such as "Jūnan Bo-tō" (The Dwarf), "Kajin" (Beast in the Shadows), and "Koto-no-Ōri" (The Domain of the Lonely Isle). He also captivated young adult readers with his "Shōnen Tantei Dan" series (The Boy Detective's Gang), and greatly influenced the trajectory of both pulp fiction and youth literature.

After World War II, he continued to be actively involved in the literary field - writing essays as a critic in *Gra-Ei-Jō*, and founding the Detective Author's Club. On July 28, 1965 (Shōwa 40), he passed away. In addition to the above, his most well-known works include "Imenara no Sengen" (The Stranger in the Arctic), "Fusenama-ue Kaze" (The Strange Tale of Fusenama Island), and "Kajin Nijū Monogatari" (The Mystery Man of Twenty Faces).

SUEHIRO MARUO

Born on January 28, 1964 (Shōwa 39), in Nagasaki.

At a young age, Suehiro Maruo was an avid reader of comic magazines such as "Shōnen King" and "Shōnen Magazine", and aspired to become a manga artist. At the age of 15, Maruo moved to Tokyo and took a job at the bookbinder Toppin, in Inbushō, Tokyo. At 17, he showed his work to editors at "Shōnen Jump" but was told his work wasn't appropriate for their adolescent readers. After that, Maruo took a hiatus from attempting to publish his comic work.

Suehiro Maruo made his debut as a manga artist at the age of 24, with his "Tobacco no Kishi" (Knight of the Ribbon). Two years later, he followed with his "Bōryō no Kibōshi" (Blossom-Colored Monkeys). Since then, Maruo has continued to produce a stream of beautiful manga and illustrations, and his distinctive artistic style exploded his popularity internationally. His numerous manga works include "Uyoyu Tsubaki" (Mr. Arakiba Among Peach Blossoms), "Jūgūshi Hōmei" (Dr. Inuyama), and "Waku Ryūkyōshi" (The Laughing Vampire). His illustrations are also featured in novels such as "Toku Monogatari" (Tale of the Imperial Capital) by Hiroshi Aramata, and as a member of albums, such as John Zorn's "Naked City."

